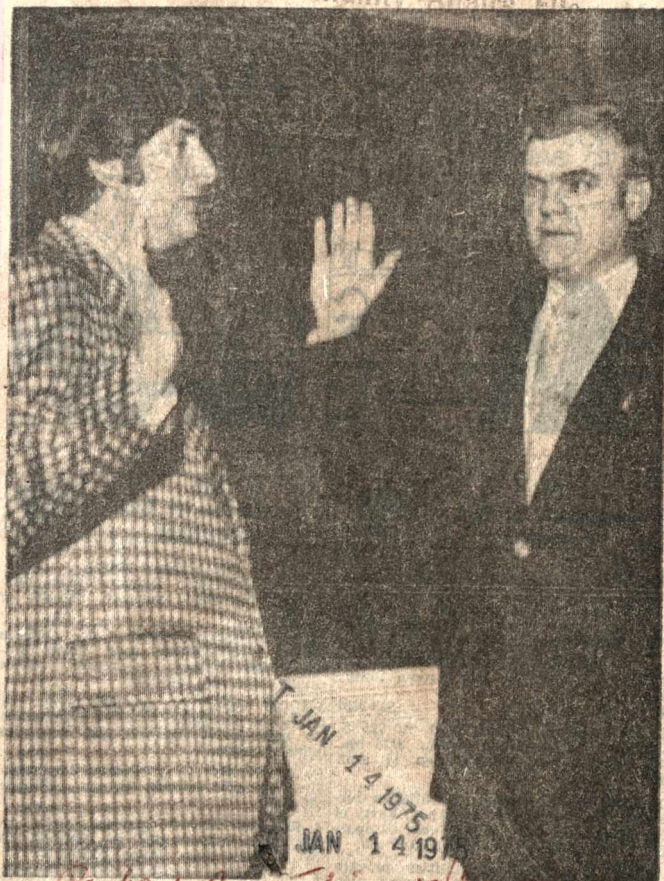


TUESDAY, JAN. 14, 1975

Community Affairs File



Parks & Recreation, Vigo Co.
NEW COUNTY PARK BOARD MEMBER John W. "Bill" Thompson, right, was given the oath of office last week by Vigo Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson. Thompson will be attending his first official meeting of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board on Monday, Jan. 27. He replaces Boyd T. Schepper, who has been a board member for the past four years. Other appointments by the Circuit Court Judge are John Etling, Everett S. "Bud" Spence, and Fox Burns. Mayor William J. Brighton has appointed Susan McCarthy, and the sixth member, County Extension Agent Max G. Miller, serves ex officio by virtue of his office.

House of Photography Photo.

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Community Affairs File

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Park Department Adds Assistant Director Job

Community Affairs File

The position of assistant director of recreation has been added to the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department with funds made available through the Emergency Jobs and Unemployment Assistance Act.

Robert Rowe started in the job of assistant director Monday morning.

Approximately 20 jobs were expected to be provided for unemployed Vigo County residents with the total of \$132,378 to be allocated to the county by the measure signed into law by President Ford on New Year's Eve.

According to Patrick Dougherty, superintendent of the Park and Recreation Department, Rowe will assist the director of recreation in the planning and supervision of the recreational programs in the city parks.

Rowe, who majored in physical education at Indiana State University, will help with such activities as the softball and basketball programs.

The recreation programs were added to the Park Department in March, 1974, when a director of recreation, Michael Reyher, was added to the staff. At that

time, the name of the department was changed to the Park and Recreation Department.

Reyher said Rowe will assist him with many changes and additions to the recreational programs to be instituted this summer.

Rome, 26, lives at 2207 First Ave. with his wife, Patricia.

Community Affairs File

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Vigo Parks, Recreation Dept. Releases Report On Progress

S JAN 16 1975

By JOE ROLAND
Star Staff Writer

A progress report on efforts to develop recreational areas in Sugar Creek Township was released Wednesday by Keith Ruble, superintendent of the Vigo County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Ruble said the department launched three feasibility studies at the request of an ad hoc committee of West Terre Haute area residents. He said the committee recommended the park department improve an existing pocket park on S. Seventh Street in West Terre Haute and study the possibility of establishing a similar park on the town's north side.

The department has already accepted the recommendation on the existing park. Ruble said,

and it is looking for a suitable parcel of land for another park.

+ + +

Another recommendation of the committee was to acquire the Green Valley State Fish and Game Area for use as a county park and to develop camping and other recreational facilities.

Ruble said the department is continuing a feasibility study on the recommendation. He said the area, which is now under the control of the State Department of Natural Resources, could be secured under a

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On Page 5, Column 5

Vigo County Public Library

County Parks

S JAN 16 1975
Continued From Page 1

long-term lease from the state, but that other aspects of the area must be investigated before any decision is made.

There is a question, Ruble said, as to whether or not the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation would approve Federal funds for the project because of certain physical aspects of the property. He said the department is looking into other open spaces in the area to be considered as alternate sites.

Development of a northwest park is included into the county department's five-year master plan which includes establishment of parks in all quadrants of the county.

+ + +

The county's first park, Fowler Park, is located in the southeast quadrant. It was the priority item of the neophyte department of Parks and Recreation which was created in 1967. The park has been consistently improved and upgraded since it was opened in 1968 and now includes swimming, fishing, boating and camping facilities.

The department has also begun work on a pioneer village

at the park which it is hoped will preserve a sample of the life-style of the pioneers who carved Vigo County out of the forests and prairies.

Scheduled to be opened in May is Prairie Creek Park in the southwestern area of the county. Development of the 100-acre area began some two years ago. At the outset, the park will feature all the facilities of Fowler Park, except swimming. Ruble said it is possible a swimming area will be developed later.

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Park Feasibility Study Continues

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department is continuing a feasibility study of possible recreational areas in northwest Vigo County as part of a five-year master plan which includes establishment of parks in all quadrants of the county.

Among the suggested sites is the Green Valley State Fish and Game area in Sugar Creek Township. The possibility of the county park department's leasing the area from the state on a long-term arrangement and developing it as a county park with camping and other recreational facilities had been discussed by the Park Board at a meeting last June, with both proponents and opponents from the West Terre Haute area attending.

Park Superintendent Keith Ruble reported at that meeting that if the site were acquired, the state would maintain the lake and dam, amounting to a saving to the county of about \$3,000 per year.

The board took the matter under advisement, indicating it wanted to receive comments on the proposal from the public before making a decision.

In conducting the feasibility study of the Green Valley area, local park officials have learned that in order to comply with

federal guidelines on park development, electrical lines must be underground in order for them to receive cost sharing from the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

The Green Valley area, which is now under the control of the State Department of Natural Resources, does contain high voltage lines which pass over the property. Whether the state or the county (or perhaps neither) can or will take the necessary steps to qualify for B.O.R. moneys by installing underground lines has further complicated the matter.

The State Department of Natural Resources has apparently only recently been made aware of possible health hazards and environmental pollution from high voltage power lines, and has provided factual information to the Vigo County Park Department.

In view of studies conducted in Russia since 1962 and included in a book, "Power Over People," by Louise Young, published by Oxford University Press, 1973, with updated 1974 version in paperback, and summarized in an Oct. 15, 1974 issue of "Conservation News," state and local park officials appear to be adopting a cautious "wait and see" attitude as further studies are made.

Ruble stressed that there have been "no decisions made yet" by the county department on the Green Valley area.

Along with the suggestion last June to develop Green Valley, an ad hoc committee from West Terre Haute (which has reportedly since disbanded) also recommended that the county park department also improve an existing pocket

park on S. 7th St. in West Terre Haute and establish a similar park on the north side of U.S. 40.

The department has accepted the recommendation for the existing pocket park and is looking for a suitable parcel on the north side.

Alternate areas for a multi-purpose recreational site will also be considered, Ruble said.

Vigo County presently has parks in two quadrants. Fowler Park, southeast, the first to be established, and Prairie Creek, southwest, scheduled to open in May, 1975.

Further discussions of the five-year master plan are expected to continue at the Jan. 27 meeting of the Park Board at 4 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building.

Community Affairs File

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Playground Equipment

Funds Sought

Parks & Recreation, Vigo co.
By COLLEEN BLACKETER

Tribune Staff Writer

FEB 10 1975

An appropriation ordinance to provide new playground equipment for four more city neighborhood parks is to be introduced at the Terre Haute City Council meeting Thursday night.

The ordinance to appropriate \$40,100 is sponsored by City Council President Kenneth Thomas.

The ordinance will provide funding for playground equipment in Collett Park, 7th Street and Maple Ave., Memorial Park, 3rd Street and 8th Avenue, Graham Park, 17th Street and Dean Avenue and Height Center Park, 13th Street and College Avenue.

The addition of the playground equipment in the four parks is part of a major neighborhood park renovation program initiated by Mayor William J. Brighton. With the installation of equipment in the parks provided for by the ordinance, all the city neighborhood parks will have playground equipment, the mayor announced.

Standard equipment will be installed in all the parks with the addition of adventure-type playground equipment at Collett Park, according to Park and Recreation Department Superintendent Patrick Dougherty. He explained this type of equipment will eventually be installed in all the neighborhood parks after the parks all have the standard equipment.

If the appropriation ordinance

Continued On Page 2, Col. 4.

Playground ✓

FEB 10 1975
Continued From Page One.

is passed, the new equipment will be installed in the parks this spring and summer, Dougherty said.

New equipment was installed in Thompson Park, 17th and Oak streets, and Herz-Rose Park, 15th and Locust streets, last fall. New equipment for Voorhees Park, Voorhees St. and Prairieton Road, and Sheridan Park, 28th and Beech streets, has already been received by the city and will be installed when the weather permits, according to Dougherty.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

City Orders 700 Trees For Planting

FEB 21 1976

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

Seven hundred trees have been ordered by the city to use in a cooperative effort between the Park and Recreation Department and the Wastewater Treatment Plant, according to Mayor William J. Brighton.

The trees, bought from a company in Tennessee for \$1,225, will be planted first at the Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of the Operation Green Cycle program and then, after growing enough to survive in the parks, will be transplanted to the parks in the city.

"We will be able to effectively use the trees in both programs," the mayor said.

Patrick Dougherty, superintendent of the Park and Recreation Department, explained the trees were ordered from the Tennessee company because the types of trees ordered were not available through the state nursery. The price was very reasonable, he added.

Dougherty said ornamental type trees were ordered including River Birch, Sycamore, Sugar Maple, Crimson King Maple, True Pin Oak and Lombardi Poplar.

He explained the trees will be delivered to the city bare rooted and will be planted immediately at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Half of the trees will be planted in the Operation Green Cycle program and half will be planted in regular soil, according to Kenny Hedges, assistant superintendent at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Operation Green Cycle program is an experiment started by the Treatment Plant nearly a year ago in which the sludge refuse of the plant is used as fertilizer.

"We will compare if we can accelerate the growth on these trees with this fertilizer," Hedges said.

"This is a good experiment for us plus it will pay off for the parks too," Hedges said.

Hedges explained the results on other types of trees have been very successful. He said the growth of walnut trees has really been affected and much interest in the use of sludge as fertilizer has been created. He said now agronomists at Purdue University are studying the experiment.

Hedges said the program was started after the plant heard of a similar experiment on a smaller scale in Michigan. He said before the experiment started the plant had to pay for the removal of this sludge. If the experiments are successful, the sludge may be marketed for a profit, he pointed out.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Vigo Recreation Survey Planned

FEB 27 1975

Vasco Recreation, Vigo Co.

A comprehensive survey of private and public recreation areas and facilities in Vigo County will begin about March 15. After the information is gathered it will be compiled in a brochure which will be available to the public.

The project will be carried out under the auspices of the Recreation Committee of the Vigo County Co-ordinating Council, with Keith Ruble, Vigo County Park and Recreation Superintendent, serving as survey chairman.

Working with Ruble in planning and carrying out the survey is Janey Meyer, executive director of Turner Girls' Club.

Richard Biggs is chairman of the VCCC Recreation Committee.

"This is the first time that we've ever had a complete survey of all recreational facilities

in the county," Ruble said. "It really has two purposes . . . not only will it provide information to the public but it will also be of great help in planning by various agencies, organizations and individuals . . . as well as avoid duplication . . ."

Members of the council committee and others will hand distribute and explain the survey forms to agencies serving the public beginning about March 15. Ruble says the survey should be completed by the end of April.

"We have a list of recreation facilities but there may be others we don't know about," he added. "Anyone who is not contacted and wants to be listed in the brochure may call me at the County Park Department and request a survey form."

Where can you play basketball? Where can go to horseback riding? camping? golfing? swimming? These are only a few of the questions Ruble is frequently asked, he said.

When the survey is completed, the brochures will be available at such places as the city and county park departments, the Chamber of Commerce, County Extension Office, libraries, etc.

Ruble is enthusiastic about the project, though it will involve a lot of hard work in the next few months, getting it all together.

"It will be a real service . . . providing this information to the public on who offers what kind of recreation facilities and where," he commented.

Ruble will bring members of the Recreation Committee up to date on progress of the survey at a meeting on March 18.

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
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County Getting Parks Ready For New Season

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

"Park preparations proceeding..." that was the message from Vigo County Park and Recreation Superintendent Keith Ruble Friday, as he discussed plans for preparing the county's parks for the spring, summer and fall of 1975.

During the winter, park employees have built about 45 new picnic tables, Ruble said, using salt-treated wood that requires little maintenance. The department has purchased about 11 more tables from the Indiana Department of Corrections, so there'll be a goodly supply for

park visitors.

Also, considerable attention and effort have been given to getting foot, nature and hiking trails in good condition, Ruble said. At the new Prairie Creek Park, the trails are being readied now. Construction has been completed on all roads, buildings and lake ponds, and the grand opening is tentatively scheduled for June 2.

Both the watershed lake and the small pond at Prairie Creek have been stocked with channel catfish and red-eared sunfish, Ruble said. Later this spring, bluegills, bass, fingerlings and other small fish will be added.

The county park superintendent

estimates it will be from one and a half to two years before the fish in the Prairie Creek lakes attain adequate size.

"In accordance with state recommendation, we'll enforce the 14-inch minimum length for bass at both Fowler and Prairie Creek Parks," Ruble said.

Camping will be available at both these parks, he continued. New rates recently approved by the County Park and Recreation Board are \$3 per night for trailer camp sites with electrical hookups and \$1.50 per night for primitive sites.

During the winter, improvements to the camp grounds at Fowler have kept park personnel busy. They've done extensive tree thinning to permit better sunlight penetration. This will result in a good grass sod stand, alleviate the problem of mud and conserve the soil, Ruble explained.

There are future plans to replace all electrical fuse camp boxes at Fowler with ground fault type boxes, Ruble noted. He plans to discuss this with the

Vigo County Council at the earliest opportunity.

Theft of fuses from the boxes plagued the park department last year, Ruble noted.

Good news for fishermen at Fowler Park was also related by the park superintendent. The trees removed from the camping area in the thinning out process, along with a pile of Christmas trees, will be buried in the lake to create a fish habitat, Ruble said. He will have maps for the anglers showing the locations of the "buried treasures."

"We're also increasing the tree nursery this year, insuring that we'll have plenty of trees coming on to replace the ones that are damaged, and also to make all our parks more beautiful," Ruble continued. This is the third year for the tree nursery.

Also at Fowler Park, biological tests will begin this spring to determine the fish density and ratio of bass to other fish, Ruble added.

As for the lake at Fowler, "it never did freeze enough during the winter for ice fishing," he commented. The mild winter

just ending means that it's going to be a bad year for algae, Ruble noted.

In addition to the creative playground at Fowler Park, another one has been built at Prairie Creek. Designers were artists Charlie Gibson and Bert Dier of St. Mary of the Woods College. A similar playground is to be built in the West Terre Haute pocket park.

The Pioneer Village at Fowler Park is rapidly expanding, and will be the site of the third annual Pioneer Days Festival the first weekend in October. Two log cabins have been completed, a third is almost finished, and two more cabins plus a log barn are to be added to the little settlement near the park entrance.

Ruble and assistant superintendent Chet Burkeyby located several cabins in southern Indiana, which have been dismantled and brought to Vigo County. Ruble hopes to get some volunteers from the Army Reserve to help with the reconstruction of the little village.

The fall festival attracts thousands to Fowler Park. Plans are to have a village similar to that

THE TRIBUNE-STAR, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

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at Spring Mill State Park.

April and May will be the busiest months at Hunt's Nature Center for Ruble, as he'll be leading tours of school groups almost daily. Little maintenance of this park facility has been required during the winter, mainly trail work and signs, the superintendent said.

At the New Goshen Schoolhouse site, the Park Department is considering placing several picnic tables on the grounds, adding a new restroom facility and possibly a small picnic shelter.

Persons wishing to tour the restored turn-of-the-century schoolhouse or the Nature Center or to reserve shelters at the various parks may contact the County Park Office at the Vigo County Courthouse.

Continuing plans for development of rural recreation and park projects, Ruble said "we're still working with the Fontanet Bean Dinner Association on a lease arrangement for the Bean Dinner grounds, which would provide outdoor recrea-

tion area for people in the northern part of the county.

"We're also looking for another place in the West Terre Haute area and in other small communities for rural recreation projects. These are to be established with citizen support," he added.

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Community Affairs File

Summer Park Plans Under Way in City

Community Affairs File
T MAR 15 1975

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

The Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department is preparing the parks for their upcoming busy season, according to Mayor William J. Brighton.

Mayor Brighton said the department has been working all winter in planning and preparing for the spring, summer and fall activities to be conducted in the parks.

As for supervised activities, 10 weeks of organized athletics and supervised programming on the playgrounds has been planned, the mayor said. The 10-week period will run from June 9 to Aug. 15.

The organized athletics will include softball in Memorial Park, baseball in the Spencer Ball Park and tennis in Rea and Collett parks. The supervised playground activities are to be at Sheridan, Voorhees, Thompson, Herz-Rose and Collett parks.

The city swimming pools will be open from June 1 to September 1. The pools are to be open just days during the week and days and nights on the weekends.

The staff to supervise these activities is being organized now, according to the mayor. In the recreation program, six field work students from Indiana State University with majors in recreation will work in the programming.

The recreation program in the parks is in its second year, Mayor Brighton said. According to the mayor, the program will be greatly expanded this year.

On the physical side of things, new playground equipment is to be installed in eight neighborhood parks by this summer, the mayor said. New equipment has already been installed in Herz-Rose and Thompson parks and the equipment is in for Voorhees and Sheridan parks. The Terre Haute City Council approved \$40,100 at the Thursday night meeting for equipment for Graham, Hyte Center, Memorial and Collett parks.

New tennis courts have been

poured at Collett Park and will be fenced in and color coated as soon as the weather permits, Mayor Brighton pointed out. He said new horseshoe pitching areas are to be built at the neighborhood parks, also.

Money has been appropriated also for the renovation of Fairbanks Park, Mayor Brighton said. Work on the new Julius Brittlebank Park at 20th and Grant Streets is to begin, too, the mayor said.

The department employees have been working on the equipment all winter getting it ready for the summer usage, according to the mayor. New mowers with a seven-foot cutting span have been purchased, Mayor Brighton said.

Fertilizer and seeds have been bought to reseed all the worse areas of the parks and boulevards, Mayor Brighton added. He said all the dead trees on the boulevards have been replaced and some new trees have been planted in the parks.

About 700 new trees were purchased in cooperation with the Waste Water Treatment Plant to eventually be planted in the

city parks also, the mayor added. He said both departments paid half of the cost of the trees which will first be planted in the sludge experiment at the treatment plant and then be transplanted to the parks.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 2.

Park Plans

T MAR 15 1975

Continued From Page One.

All of the flowerbeds in the city will be replaced with Purr-Wick flowerbeds, Mayor Brighton stated. Purr-Wick flowerbeds have vynal lining which hold the moisture in and cut extensively the need for watering. These flowerbeds have been used in other cities and the growth of the plants in them has often increased.

"These are just a few and the beginning of the plans and work to be done in the parks to prepare for the summer season," Mayor Brighton concluded.

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CHECKING SUMMER PARK PLANS—Pat Dougherty, superintendent of the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department, points out part of the city park plans for the upcoming summer to Mayor William J. Brighton, seated. Looking on are, from left to right, John Palmer, director of maintenance; Kenneth Coy, president of the Park and Recreation Board; Mike Reyher, director of recreation; and Dave Kintz, assistant director of maintenance.

House of Photography Photo.

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Community Affairs File

Park Board

Will Receive

\$19,362 Check

Parks and Recreation
Vigo Co
Community Affairs File
\$ MAR 17 1975
A \$19,362 check for reimbursement for the development of Prairie Creek Park will be received by the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board from the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, according to Joseph D. Cloud, director of the Department of Natural Resources.

The \$150,000 Prairie Creek Park project was implemented in the fall of 1973 and is scheduled for official grand opening June 2. Keith Ruble stated the park will probably be open to the public prior to June's tentative grand opening.

The project has been funded through matching funds from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Vigo County taxpayers.

According to Ruble, approximately \$75,000 has been received through the outdoor recreation board. The federal assistance program is administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

City Plans Adventure Playgrounds for Parks

Community Affairs File

APR 29 1975

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

Adventure playgrounds are to be installed in two city neighborhood parks this summer and plans are to install that type of playground in all neighborhood parks, according to Mayor William J. Brighton.

Adventure playgrounds, often called creative playgrounds, consist of a variety of structures that allow the child to create whatever type of play he wants.

These playgrounds are different from the standard playground in that there are no structured sets of play. The child uses his imagination to play however he wants.

The Park and Recreation Department is advertising for bids for the adventure playgrounds in Collett Park, 7th Street and Maple Avenue, and Hyle Center, 14th and Deming streets. The first advertisement was published in two local papers last Saturday and the second will be published again next Saturday in both papers,

according to requirements set by law.

The advertisement to bidders also gives notice of the acceptance of bids on standard equipment for playgrounds at Memorial Park, 4th Street and 8th Avenue, and Graham Park, 1401 S. 17th St. The standard equipment is to be installed in all neighborhood parks, also.

Bids on the new equipment must be submitted by 1 p.m. May 13 and will be opened by the Park and Recreation Department Board that day.

The adventure playgrounds in each park are to be different. The new standard equipment that has been installed in several neighborhood parks already and is to be installed in the rest of the neighborhood parks is the same.

In the Collett Park, several types of equipment will be incorporated including climbers, balance beams, a cable pull, tunnels, chinning bars, tire swings, jiggle platforms and a fireman's pole. Also, in the playground will be four types of slides: tube, spiral, wave and tiny tot. A three-tier sand box with water will be included to allow the child to form objects out of the sand.

Treated wood is to be used to build the adventure playgrounds. The plans and specifications for Collett Park's playground calls for 5,000 board feet of southern yellow pine.

"The adventure playgrounds are a modern, new concept in recreation," Mayor Brighton said. "It is our intention to eventually install some of this equipment in all the neighborhood parks."

"This is just a continuation of our program to permit the citizens to utilize our city's park system," the mayor said.

Mayor Brighton explained the master plan for the overall renovation of the neighborhood parks provides for an intermixing of the adventure playgrounds with the standard equipment playgrounds.

"I think probably this summer more youngsters and parents will be in the neighborhood parks than ever before," the mayor continued. "Justification for this statement can be seen by looking in the after-school hours in the parks where new equipment has been installed — where there are

many, many youngsters utilizing the equipment."

The funding for the renovation of the neighborhood parks is being taken from federal revenue sharing money. An appropriation ordinance for \$40,100 was approved by the Terre Haute City Council in the March meeting for the four-park project currently being advertised for by the city.

Community Affairs File

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Parks Recreation Program Expanded

18 MAY 1975

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

Plans for the summer recreation programs in the Terre Haute parks are nearly complete and the schedules for most of the activities have been announced by the Park and Recreation Department.

The summer recreation programs have been greatly expanded this year with regular daily programming and special events over the 10-week period, according to Michael Reyher, director of recreation for the city.

The programs will run from June 9 through August 15. Planned are daily playground activities in five of the neighborhood parks, a baseball program for one park, softball in another park, tennis in two parks and swimming in the three city pools. Gospel sings are planned once a month, also.

Reyher said the city is expanding the park recreation programs in an effort to get more of the city children and adults into the parks.

An added drawing card to the neighborhood parks this summer is the new playground equipment which has been installed in several parks and is to be installed in the rest of the neighborhood parks, Reyher said. He said the immediate response of the children to the new equipment already installed has been evident by the use the

equipment has been getting. He pointed out it had been over 30 years since the city had purchased any new playground equipment.

All of the recreation programs are open to anyone with no fees or costs. Registration for most of the programs is on the first day, June 9. The pool programs will start on the day the pools open, June 1, and the softball program has already started, though.

Besides a weekly summary of the city recreation activities in the newspaper, the schedules will be posted in the parks.

Participants may join in on any day or on all days for the supervised recreation programs.

The city recreation programs are divided into three major categories — playground activities, athletics and pools.

PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES

The supervised playground activities will run from June 9 to August 15. Park leaders will be in five neighborhood parks from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on week days to coordinate activities. The parks with the organized playground activities will be Collett, 7th and Maple; Herz-Rose, 1515 Locust; Thompson, 721 Oak St.; Sheridan, 2825 Ruckeye St. and Voorhees, 230 W. Voorhees St.

Two park leaders will work in each park to organize program-

thing. Five of the total of 10 park leaders are Indiana State University senior recreation majors doing their field work.

Each week, different activities will be organized and supervised by the park leaders, such as arts and crafts, dramatics, low-organized games (Kick ball, volley ball, etc.), music and other events.

A travelling schedule for some activities has been worked out so the activities will reach each park. The Happiness Bag Players will be in each neighborhood park over the July 7, 9 and 10 activities. Also, a clown will visit the parks.

Reyher said volunteers to teach or exhibit special talents in the park are being solicited. He suggested volunteer persons in such activities as baton, wrestling, guitar and chess or checkers could travel to the parks on a set schedule.

A special city-wide event is planned to be done in all of the parks during the 10-week period. They are: the opening week, a superstars week, physical fitness week, day camp activities week, pitch-in week, a Halloween in July, Littlest 500 week, marbles week, the Second Annual Play Day and the Collett Carnival week.

The Collett Carnival and the Second Annual Play Day are the two major events planned for the summer recreation program.

The Collett Carnival is scheduled for Saturday, June 28. It will be set up like a small-scale carnival with booths and games and other activities. Possible activities may be a tennis tournament, a horseshoe pitching tournament, free throw shooting, ring toss, arts and crafts exhibits, penny pitch, a slippery slide, shuffle board and golf chipping contest.

The separate parks in which playground activities are scheduled will have booths in the carnival and will have that as the project for that particular week.

The Collett Carnival is being

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Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
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Recreation

May 18 1975
Continued From Page One.

held early in the season to get the people to know what all is available in the parks. Reyher said. The activities will probably be free for the children with a small fee for adults, he added. An ISU recreation field student will coordinate the event.

The Second Annual Play Day is set for Wednesday, Aug. 13. The event will be the final round-up activity for the summer playground activities. All the participants will gather at one of the parks for a day-long program to include all the activities of the summer. The children will have picnic lunches and end the day with a free swim in a city pool.

POOLS — The city pools will open June 1 and close on Labor Day. The hours for the pools will be 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

The city pools are located in Deming, Fruitridge and Ohio, Sheridan, 2825 Buckeye St., and Voorhees, 230 W. Voorhees St.

A park manager has been hired for each pool. That manager will organize swim teams of the neighborhood children. Swim meets will be held through the summer with a final swim meet with competition between all three pools. This is the first year for such a program.

The city Aquatics Club will be using the city pools for swim meets with other city clubs, also. The club previously used the school pools.

This year, each new person at the pools will be asked to fill out an information card to be used for emergency purposes. This card will also be filed with the clothes baskets each time to help the pool officials keep track of the basket tags, which in the past have been often taken.

ATHLETICS — The athletic programs in the parks include baseball, softball and tennis with the activities centered in different parks.

The baseball program will be in Spencer Ball Park, 8th Ave. and 15th St., for five to fifteen-year-olds. Registration will start June 9 and run the first week from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the park.

After the registration, the supervisor and four instructors will divide the participants into **7-11 Sluggers** (five, six and seven-year-olds), **Beginners** (eight and nine-year-olds), **Minors** (10 and 11-year-olds) and **Junior League** (12, 13, 14, 15-year-olds).

The teams will play about twice a week. The schedule will be printed each Sunday.

In an evening program, the municipal slow-pitch teams will play on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the **Connie Mack League** of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds will play.

The softball league plays its

games Monday through Friday night in Memorial Park. Five leagues participate, one playing each night. All softball teams are fast pitch with teams for men, women and children.

The softball season has already started, running May through August.

Tennis lessons will be given in Collett and Rea parks. Two instructors will be in each park to organize activities.

The hours for tennis will be determined by the registration which will be during the week of June 9.

Activities for tennis will include instruction, free play and tournaments.

Besides the city recreation tournaments, the Terre Haute Tennis Club will sponsor tournaments in Rea Park. The club's tournament schedule is: May 31 and June 1 — **Wabash Valley Festival Open**, June 7-8 — **Club Hat Opener**, June 14-15 — **Terre Haute Handicap Doubles**, June 21-22 — **Earl Wood Memorial**, June 27-29 — **Indiana Tennis Championships**, July 12-13 — **Terre Haute Singles**, July 19-20 — **Terre Haute Doubles**, July 26-27 — **Terre Haute Handicap Singles**, Aug. 1-3 — **Terre Haute Juniors Closed**, Aug. 4-6 — **Wabash Valley Juniors Open**, Aug. 9-10 — **Wabash Valley Open**, and Aug. 16-17 — **Club Hat Finals**.

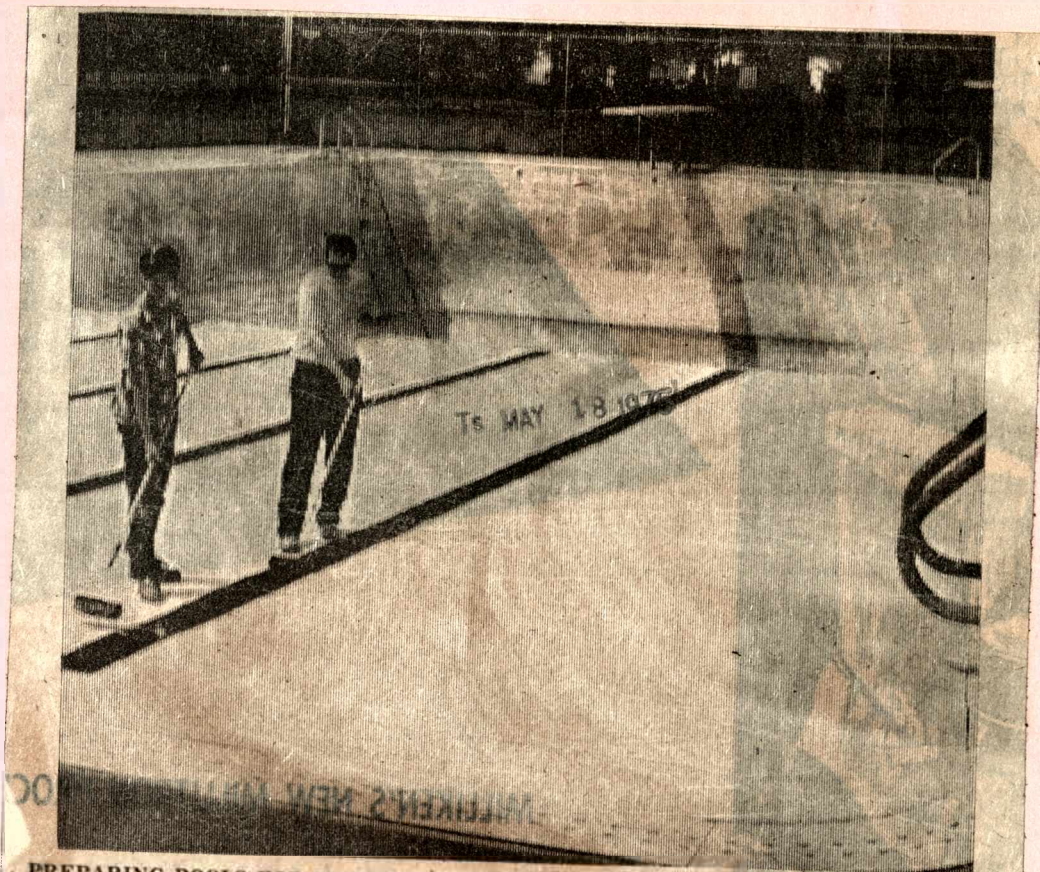
The park instruction and programming for tennis will be during the day with the club activities in the evenings and on weekends.

GOSPEL SINGS — Gospel sings have been set up once a month in the Harrison Pavillion in Deming Park for 2 p.m. on Sunday.

For June, the Ambassador Quartet and the Golden Rule Quartet will perform, both local groups. In July, the Spear Family, from Nashville, Tenn., and rated the number one mixed gospel group in the nation for the last couple of years, will perform, but his time in Fairbanks Park, along the Wabash River.

For the August Gospel Sing, the Persuaders, a group of girls from Oaktown, Ind., who were the third runner-up in the national quartet competition, and the Ambassadors will perform, again in Deming Park. On Labor Day, the Thrasher Brothers, a group from Birmingham, Ala., who have their own syndicated television program, will provide the entertainment.

More information on the planned summer recreation activities will be released as plans are finalized.



PREPARING POOLS FOR SUMMER SPLASH—Park and Recreation Department employees painted the city park swimming pools last week getting ready for the summer season. Park recreation activities will get in full swing early in June. House of Photography Photo.

City Parks Begin Full Recreation Program Monday

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

Recreation activities in the city parks are set to begin Monday morning with registration for the playground and athletic activities.

Highlights of the first day of the playground activities include visits to all parks by Bobo the Clown, scavenger hunts out of all the parks and a watermelon eating contest at Collett Park, 7th and Maple.

Regular daily recreation programming is planned for 10 weeks in five of the city's neighborhood parks. Organized park activities are planned 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily in Collett Park, Herz-Rose Park, 1515 Locust; Thompson, 721 Oak St.; Sheridan Park, 2825 Buckeye St., and Voorhees, 230 W. Voorhees St.

The baseball program also is set to begin in Spencer Park, 8th Ave. and 15th St., with registration starting Monday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Registration for tennis in Rea and Collett parks is to be the first week, too.

In the parks, two park leaders will organize activities in each park.

The schedule for the first day is 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.—chess and checkers tournaments, 11 a.m. to noon—relays, shuttle, wheelbarrow and crab-walk, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.—a scavenger hunt, 2:30 p.m.—softball accuracy throw, with the watermelon eating contest at Collett Park. A fingerpaint art show is scheduled for throughout the day.

On the first day also, Bobo the clown, will make trips around to all the parks with a show. The clown's schedule is 9 a.m. at Collett Park, 9:45 at Sheridan, 10:30 a.m. at Herz-Rose, 11 a.m. in Thompson and 11:30 a.m. at Voorhees. Bobo will return to Collett at 2:30 p.m. for the watermelon eating contest.

Each week, different activities will be organized and supervised by the park leaders, such as arts and crafts, dramatics, low organized games (kick ball, volley ball, etc.) music and other events.

The schedule of special events and tournaments in the parks is: June 9 to 13—Opening day with a whiffle ball tournament, June 16 to 20—Superstars and superstars events, June 23 to 27—Collett Carnival and a tetherball tournament, June 30 to July 4—Pitch in week and a kickball tournament, July 7 to 11—Day Camp and a volleyball tournament, July 14 to 18—Halloween in July and a circleball tournament, July 21 to 25—physical fitness week and a kickball tournament, July 28 to Aug. 1

—Littlest 500 Week and a shuffleboard tournament; Aug. 4 to 8—Marbles Week and a marbles tournament; and Aug. 11 to 15—Playday.

For all the tournaments, participants will compete in the following classes: seven and under — preps; eight and nine year olds — midgets; 10 and 12 year olds — novices; and 13 and over — juniors.

Participants in the park programs will go to Day Camp at Camp Clover in Fowler Park for the first time this year. The parks will go different weeks with Collett scheduled for July 7, 8, 9 and 10; Voorhees for July 14, 15, 16 and 17 and Sheridan, Herz Rose and Thompson for July 21, 22, 23 and 24. The children will be transported by bus daily to the camp.

The Happiness Bag Players are to present programs in the parks. They are scheduled for Voorhees Park at 1:30 p.m. and Thompson Park at 3:30 p.m. on July 8, Herz-Rose Park at 1:30 p.m. and Sheridan Park at 3:30 p.m. July 9 and Collett Park at 1:30 p.m. July 15.

Children may participate in the Park recreation programs everyday or whenever they want. A schedule will be published weekly or specific events.

The baseball program in Spencer Park is for five to 15 year olds.

The participants will be divided into Sluggers (five, six and seven year olds), Beginners (eight and nine year olds), Minors (10, 11 and 12 year olds) and Juniors (13, 14 and 15 year olds.)

The teams will play about twice a week. The schedule will be printed each Sunday.

Tennis lessons will be given in Collett and Rea parks. Two instructors in each park will organize activities.

Tennis activities will include instruction, free play and tournaments.

The hours for tennis will be determined by the registration during the first week.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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CHECKING OVER RECREATION PLANS—Park recreation leaders meet to make a last minute check on the plans for the recreation program in five of the city neighborhood parks scheduled to start Monday with registration. Meeting with Mike Reyher, director of recreation for the city, right, are park leaders Mark DeLong, Voorhees Park; Mary Ann Knight, Thompson Park, and John Benna, Collett Park.
House of Photography Photo.

Summer Activities Offered In All Terre Haute Parks

By JUN 15 1975

The City Park and Recreation Department's summer program got into full swing this past week with many activities being offered in the parks and playgrounds. The department sponsors supervised activities during the summer in the areas of neighborhood park playgrounds, athletics and swimming pools.

The city playgrounds opened for the 1975 season last week with opening day specials highlighting the first week's activities. Supervised playground activities will be available at Collett, Robse, Sheridan, Voorhees and Thompson playgrounds through August 15. The playgrounds will be open from 9 a.m. until noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. City-wide specials will be conducted each week of the season along with all kinds of activities like arts and crafts, dramatics, games, music and tournaments and much more.

Last Monday's opening day activities labeled "Playground Happenings" included get acquainted games, relays, scavenger hunts and a big watermelon eating contest at Collett Park that attracted over 200. "Bobo" the clown greeted the "playgrounders" early Monday morning with a visit to each of the sites. This week "Bobo" will be at Voorhees on Monday, Sheridan on Tuesday and back at Collett on Thursday for his regular show. "Bobo" will make weekly visits to the playgrounds throughout the summer to talk to your park leader to see when he will be visiting your playground.

Along with the daily playground programs the Park and Recreation Department has also planned some other exciting activities, including a carnival and the 2nd annual "Play

Day." The carnival is planned for June 28 and "Play Day" will be in August. Check with your playground leader for more information so you're not left out of the fun.

The athletic programs include tennis at Collett and Rea parks, baseball at Spencer F. Ball Park and softball at Memorial and Spencer F. Ball parks. Play in the softball program has already begun, however, the tennis and baseball activities will begin on Monday after last week's registration. All the activities are supervised by Recreation Department personnel and will run through August 15. Anyone wishing to participate in any of the athletic programs should go to the site for times, dates and any other information needed. Instruction, competition and a good time will all be offered in the summer athletic programs.

The city pools have had much activity since opening June 1. The pools are open for recreational swimming between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The city pools are located in Sheridan, Voorhees and Deming Parks and are open to the public seven days a week. Currently swim teams, water basketball teams and water polo teams are being formed at each of the pools for city-wide competition. Anyone wishing to participate in these activities should contact their pool managers at the pool.

Instructional swim classes will again be conducted at the Sheridan and Voorhees pools under the direction of the Red Cross. Lessons will begin in July and further information can be obtained by contacting the local Red Cross.

The Terre Haute Aquatic's

Club has three swim meets scheduled for the Deming Pool. June 21, July 12 and July 19 will find members of the local swim club competing with teams from city's in the surrounding area. All meets will start at 9 a.m. All this along with other special events will make the 1975 swimming season a busy one at the City Park and Recreation swimming pools.

There are lots of things to do and see this summer on the City Park and Recreation Department Playgrounds, fields and Pools. Everything is open to the public and we'll be looking forward to seeing you throughout the summer. Watch this column in the weeks to come to find out what's going on, then come out and join in the fun.

Community Affairs File

Wigo County Public Library

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Vigo Parks Popular Places

For Summertime Visitors

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

Camping, fishing, swimming, hiking on trails, visiting a nature center or a turn of the century schoolhouse, taking part in a variety of recreation programs... all these are available this summer through the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department.

And county park facilities are indeed being used. Superintendent Keith Ruble reports. Participation is greatest at Fowler Park, which has been open for several years, and is picking up at Prairie Creek Park, a brand new addition, which opened officially about six weeks ago.

"The weather has attracted lots of people to Fowler," Ruble said. Campsites (60 with electrical hookups plus some primitive sites) are popular, and the hot weather has brought out drowds to swim in the lake or fish.

The superintendent notes that fishing is good at Fowler, with "lots of nice bass..." The Park Department buried a goodly number of discarded Christmas trees several months ago to make a good fish habitat. They have also prepared maps of the lake which will aid avid anglers in their eternal quest for the really big one that will break all records.

The maps may be obtained from the Park Department office on the fourth floor of the courthouse or at the concession stand at Fowler Park.

Another special attraction at Fowler Park is the Pioneer Village, which is in the midst of a building boom. Two more log cabins have been added to the rapidly-expanding little settlement near the park entrance. A covered bridge has been moved to the park and adds considerably to the "early days" atmosphere.

The area is the scene of an annual fall festival, Pioneer Days, that is gaining in popularity. Long-range plans of the County Park Department include a village similar to that at Spring Mill State Park. Furnishings (authentic, of course) are needed and will be happily and gratefully accepted by the Park Department.

Days are busy at Fowler Park, with the popular day camp, Camp Clover, again being conducted for youngsters in 4-H by the County Extension agents.

Shelters are in great demand for picnics. Reservations may be made by calling the Park Department office.

Also a lot of fun are the "creative playgrounds" at Fowler and Prairie Creek parks. They are original designs by Charlie Gibson and Bert Dieter and receive much favorable comment from children and adults.

New camp boxes are to be installed at Fowler Park this summer. Meantime, the work of adding to the pioneer village continues there.

While things are usually bustling at Fowler Park, the pace at Prairie Creek is a little slower and more leisurely in several respects. Supt. Ruble terms Prairie Creek "quiet, passive, more scenic..."

The trails at Prairie Creek Park especially appeal to visitors, Ruble commented, as does the Miami nature area. Camping is available at 42 sites with electrical hookups (no primitive camping) and the beach is open for swimming. Lifeguards are on duty daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fishermen will have to wait a while for the fish to grow to sufficient size... a year or so for bluegills and about two years for bass.

"We just turned some bass loose Wednesday night," Ruble noted.

The new 100-acre Prairie Creek Park opened officially on June 2 and is not well-known yet, Ruble said, but it won't be long, he adds, noting that Fowler Park's first year was a bit slow too.

Two baseball diamonds (one for practice) receive a lot of use, especially by the Prairie Creek Youth Recreation Association.

The multipurpose court is nearing completion and will be used for tennis as well as ice skating at Prairie Creek.

At Glen Recreation Center, with Celia McLean as director, it's a big season for softball and baseball, with a lot of interest also in tennis and tennis lessons. T-ball is also popular.

Installation of a lighting system for the ball field and

tennis courts is expected to begin soon, Ruble reported. If there's sufficient money in the budget, the tennis courts will be color coated, he added.

Though summer is usually a slow time for Hurts Nature Center, with most tours arranged in the spring or fall, Ruble has escorted several classes through recently. Some 1,500 children visited the Nature Center last spring.

At New Goshen, the grounds are used by kids a lot, and adults like the little red two-room schoolhouse for meetings. Restroom facilities have been installed and the Park Department plans to construct picnic facilities soon, which will increase use of the grounds.

Also underway this summer is a new pilot program for rural recreation, being carried out cooperatively by the Park Department and the County Ex-

tension, in West Terre Haute, New Goshen and the Concannon School area.

Response to organization of a sports program has been "fantastic," Ruble said. Three people are working this summer in this new phase of park activity.

"We're having a very successful summer in the county parks," Ruble summed up.

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Vigo County Public Library



YES, FOLKS, here's swimming at Vigo County's new Prairie Creek Park, located south of Terre Haute off Ind. 63. The new facility is part of the county Park and Recreation Department. Enjoying the water one warm day this past week were Joy Morgan and Renee Turley. Lifeguards are on duty daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. There is also a fishing lake which has just been stocked, though the bass and bluegills haven't grown to sufficient size to be caught. Camping is also very popular at the new park.

House of Photography Photos.



PICNIC ON THE BEACH—Taking a break from her duties as lifeguard at the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department's Prairie Creek Park, Molly Nolan pours a cool drink from her thermos as friend Byron Reed enjoys a little summertime reading under a near the swimming beach. Both are graduates of South Vigo High School.



NEW NATURE TRAILS at Vigo County's Prairie Creek Park are a source of pleasure and beauty to parkvisitors. Enjoying them this past week were Karen Houser, Lori Ward and David Houser. The new county park opened officially June 2 and is operated by the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department.

Community Affairs File
**County Awards
Light Contract**

T JUN 25 1975

A bid of \$9,000 for lighting at the ball field and tennis courts at Glenn Recreation Center has been accepted by the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department.

The low bid was made by Sycamore Engineering, Inc. Bids from AAA Electric and Ernie's Electric Co. were rejected.

Keith Ruble, superintendent

THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUTE,

for parks and recreation, noted the lighting of the ball field would make it the first such facility for the county.

"We feel there is already a tremendous use of the field and this will add to its usefulness," Ruble stated.

"The addition of lights to the ball field and the tennis courts will greatly aid in the expansion of the summer recreation program at Glenn," reports Cecelia McLean, center director.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Concannon Possible Site For Recreation

JUL 10 1975

Community Affairs File

Planning for the eventual use and development of the former Concannon school site as a rural recreational area may be a little less arduous for the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department, thanks to a 31-page study by Terry Hobert, a student in Indiana State University's Center for Urban-Regional Studies.

Hobert's work was directed by Edwin Brown, executive director of the Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development Project, and Dr. B. K. Barton, chairman of Urban-Regional Studies at ISU.

The report was recently turned over to the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board. Park Superintendent Keith Ruble said that some of the suggestions in Hobart's plan would be used in an application he is preparing for matching federal funds for the site, located on Ferguson Hill in Sugar Creek Township.

Another application for a grant for a rural recreation site in Fontanet is also being prepared, Ruble said. Both will be submitted to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and are cost-sharing proposals to be matched with local tax moneys.

The County Park Department was deeded the recreation site by the Vigo County School Corporation. It was formerly used for the sports field at the school. The tract of 7.88 acres provides land in excess of that required for a limited purpose facility which serves a restricted population area.

It has been suggested by Ruble that the site can accommodate a playground picnic area and ballfield.

Population studies, a soil inventory and related information, recommendations for lighting and several phases for the long-range development of the Ferguson Hill site were included in Hobert's study.

The recommended first phase includes picnic area, playground, volleyball court and general landscaping.

The second phase was improvement of the softball area, development of a nature study trail, horseshoe, shuffleboard and croquet courts, shelter for picnic area and restroom facilities.

Phases three and four suggestions included construction of tennis and basketball courts, paving a parking lot, ice skating area and lighting.

For the playground area Hobert suggested a creative tree format, rather than conventional. Both Fowler Park and Prairie Creek Parks utilize creative playground design.

Interest in establishing more rural recreation areas has been increasing because recent school consolidations have resulted in the closing of many schools, thus cutting down on the number of public play areas available for children in rural communities.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Long-Range Rural Recreation

Pilot Program Progresses

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

Vigo County Park and Recreation Board.

A "triangle" of cooperation between three local groups has added impetus to the long-range pilot rural recreation program for Vigo County.

One "side" of the triangle was Terry Hobert, a student in the Center for Urban-Regional Studies at Indiana State University. For class research purposes, he was interested in an "associated measure" which the Sycamore Trails Resource, Conservation and Development Project, the second "side," believed should be given some attention.

This measure was one however, for which Sycamore Trails had no funds but which concerned planning for the Ferguson Hill recreation site on land formerly the sports field for the former Concanon School in West Terre Haute.

The third "side" was the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department to which the site was decided by the Vigo County School Board. Hobert's completed, in-depth study of the site was approved by the Sycamore Trails Council and turned over recently to the

Initially, the project was discussed with Edwin Brown, Sycamore Trails executive director, and supervised by Brown and Dr. "Pete" Barton, chairman of the urban-regional students at ISU. Hobert also discussed the development of the area with Keith Ruble, superintendent of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department, who said he offered Hobert some suggestions as to the possibilities of such a recreation site.

Ruble commended Hobert's work and said Wednesday that

some of the suggestions in the student's proposed plan would be used in an application Ruble is preparing for matching federal funds for the Ferguson Hill site. He also is working on another grant application for a rural recreation site in Fontanel.

The proposals will go to the Bureau of Recreation of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Ruble explained, and will be cost-sharing proposals with matching funds from local tax monies.

"Hobert got some good in-

See RECREATION
On Page 15, Column 2

Recreation

Continued from Page 1

formation, such as statistics, census figures, costs, basic information," the park superintendent pointed out. "He got some public input also, and good experience in doing such a project."

In the beginning of his 31-page study, Hobert pointed out that the 7.88 acres of land for the site is a "sizable tract" for a recreational facility and provides land in excess of that required for a limited-purpose facility which serves a restricted population area.

A second important factor cited was that of present and future population projections. Although the population of West

Terre Haute decreased approximately 10 per cent between 1960 and 1970, the population in Sugar Creek township increased 47 per cent in this same period.

Sugar Creek township is the second largest in Vigo County, and the township's median age is 25.7, the lowest median age for any township in the county. Ferguson Hill is a part of enumeration district 104, the study noted, and of the 4,575 inhabitants in the district, 37 per cent are 19 years of age or under.

Ruble suggested the proposed recreation site would accommodate a playground, picnic area and ball field for the site.

The study suggests that the most feasible way to construct a multi-purpose facility would be the initiation and utilization of steps or phases and that the first phase include the addition of a picnic area, playground area, volleyball court and general landscaping.

The second phase would be improvement of the softball area, development of a nature study trail, horse-shoe, shuffleboard and croquet courts, shelter for picnic area and restroom facilities.

Suggested in the report for phases three and four would be construction of tennis courts, basketball courts, paving for a parking lot, refrigerated ice-skating area and lighting for the entire facility.

For the playground area, Hobert suggested a creative format be used, such as that at Fowler Park, rather than the conventional type.

Ruble said he had suggested a playground, picnic area and ball field for the site. He added that because of school consolidation, many schools in rural areas of the county have been closed and therefore there are no public play areas for children in rural communities.

Ruble also pointed out that "some of the suggestions" in the study, such as an ice-skating rink, "may not be feasible."

Hobert's study includes a soils inventory of the area, compiled with the help of the District Conservationist Ned Pennington, at that time with the Vigo County office; recommendations on tiling, compiled with the help of Marshall Alexander, soil conservation technician in the local Soil and Water Conservation District; a conservation plan map; recommendations for lighting and a site plan.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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Plenty of Fun In City Parks

Community Affairs File U JUL 7 1975

Parks & Recreation Dept.

The City Park and Recreation Department summer program is nearing the midway point. Hundreds of youngsters and adults withstood the hot and all kinds of activities including athletics, pools and playground fun.

Five neighborhood playgrounds are being staffed by recreation personnel this summer, to offer an organized, supervised daily program. The playgrounds are open from 9:00 a.m. until noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Playgrounds offering supervised programs include Rose, Thompson, Voorhees, Sheridan and Collett. Bud Calloway and Sheila Keating are the playground leaders at Rose Park, John Benna and Nancy Baird are at Collett, Mike Hogan and Ruth Owens at Sheridan.

Mark Delong and Judy Smith are at Voorhees and Bill Merrill and Mary Ann Knight are leaders at Thompson Park. Benna, Calloway, Hogan, Baird and Bob Fuqua who works in the baseball program at Spencer are fieldwork students, doing an internship while working on degree's from the Recreation Department at ISU. These students are planing to go into the professional recreation field and are a great asset to the summer program.

Each week on the playgrounds the leaders organaize various activities including a weekly city-wide special event. Prior specials include the opening day, "Super stars," and the Collett Carnival. This week the youngsters from the playgrounds will all have the opportunity to participate in activities at Camp Clover. The youngsters will be picked up at the playground on the assigned days and taken to Fowler Park

to take part in Camp activities and will be delivered back to their playground each evening.

The schedule for the day camp pickup is as follows: July 7, 8, 9, and 10 — Collett Park; July 14, 15, 16, and 17 — Voorhees Park; July 21, 22, 23.

Youngsters ages 5-12 are Sheridan parks.

Park and Recreation Dept. and eligible for day camp and anyone interested should contact their park leader for more information

Camp Clover activities are being offered as a part of the summer program through a joint effort between the City Park and Recreation Dept. and the County Extension Service.

The Collett Carnival that was held last Saturday was a big success. Jennifer Powell from Voorhees was selected as the carnival queen and her princesses were Josie Lynn Doctora and Dortha Evans. A special thanks to "The Royal Blue" and "Band With No Name" for their help in providing entertainment last Saturday.

The Happiness Bag Players will perform on July 8 at 1:30 at Voorhees, 3:30 at Thompson, July 9 at 1:30 at Rose, 3:30 at Sheridan. Everyone is invited to attend and watch the performers in action.

The City Park and Recreation Department is again this summer presenting gospel quartets in concert. Yesterday at Fairbanks Park the nationally known Speer Family will be on stage beginning at 2 p.m. The Speer Family holds a coveted spot in the hearts of their fellow gospel singers as well as countless thousands of gospel fans. Other nationally known groups scheduled to perform are the Thrasher Brothers on Aug. 3 at 2 p.m. in Deming Park and the Persuaders on Sept. 1 at 2 p.m. also in Deming Park. The Ambassadors, a local group, will be appearing at each of the programs and plenty of good entertainment will be provided.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File
**Chalos Praises
Park Progress**

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

Compliments to the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department and the present city administration for making a reality a 1971 campaign philosophy of a neighborhood park and recreation program were extended by City Councilman Pete Chalos, chairman of the City Council Park and Recreation Committee, after the monthly council meeting Thursday night.

Councilman Chalos said the Park and Recreation Department, with Patrick Dougherty as superintendent and under the administration of Mayor William J. Brighton, has taken the focus off of the bigger municipal parks and put it on the neighborhood parks to make recreation more available to the citizens of Terre Haute.

Chalos said that this administration has worked to improve all the smaller neighborhood parks as opposed to the centralized efforts of the previous administration on just the three larger municipal parks of Deming, Dobbs and Rea.

Chalos listed what he felt were accomplishments of the present administration, including a professional recreation program, new playground equipment, re-opened neighborhood parks, a change in Dobbs Park, the new Brittlebank Park and Fairbanks Park beautification.

Chalos said the park and recreation program has been enhanced with the hiring of a professional recreation director for the city, Michael Reyher. He added the Park and Recreation Committee of the City Council encouraged that addition to the department staff.

"We're happy to see new equipment put in the neighborhood parks that had been ignored before," Chalos said.

New equipment has been installed in Herz-Rose, 1515 Locust St., Thompson, 1721 Oak St., Sheridan, 2825 Buckeye St., Voorhees, 230 W. Voorhees St., Hyle Center, 13 1/2 to 14th St. and Deming St., Collett, 7th and Maple, and Memorial, 3rd to 6th between 7th and 8th Avenues. New equipment is to be installed next week in Graham, 1401 S. 17th St.

New multi-purpose basketball courts, that can be flooded for ice skating, have been installed in Herz-Rose and Thompson parks and are either under construction or planned for the rest of the neighborhood parks.

Pointing specifically to different parks, Chalos said the children of the southwest part of

the city, "who were neglected for a long time, are now enriching their lives with the available recreational activities at Voorhees Park."

He said, beside new playground equipment at Voorhees Park, a baseball diamond, donated by the Lions Club, has been added.

Graham Park, where new playground equipment is to be added next week, was another park Chalos commented on. He pointed out that park had been closed by the previous administration but re-opened with the administration now in office. The park has been lighted and now is the scene of numerous recreational activities, Chalos said.

A good cleaning up and face lifting for Thompson Park was cited by Chalos, too. He said that park has had lights, a basketball court, playground equipment and a supervised recreation program added to benefit the people in the neighborhood, who, he said, take much advantage of it.

The softball diamond at Memorial Park has had lights added and, participating as part of the recreation program of the city, softball leagues use the facilities daily, he added.

"Thousands of children in Terre Haute have taken part in the supervised recreation program available in the parks," Chalos said.

The recreation program, just completing its second summer,

Continued on Page 2, Col. 4.

Park

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Continued From Page One

has been "very successful," according to Chalos.

The recreation program divided into playground activities, athletic activities and swimming pools, provide supervised play for the city's children in many areas, including arts, crafts, baseball, swimming and many other activities.

"Dobbs Park has been changed from a campground facility to a nature preserve and study park as it was originally intended," Chalos pointed out.

Dobbs Park donated to the city for a memorial grove in the mid-forties, was made into a commercial campground during the previous administration.

"The parks are to provide recreation facilities for the people of Terre Haute," Chalos said. "Let the free enterprise and business people provide campgrounds for the transients."

A new neighborhood park has been started by this administration, Chalos pointed out. The Julius Brittlebank Park at 20th and Grant streets will soon be under construction.

Brittlebank Park is to include tennis courts, a playground, ball fields and a vita course and jogging track, one of the few health exercise courses in the midwest.

"The new neighborhood park fit perfectly into the overall master plan for the city," Chalos said. He pointed out the development of a master plan for the parks in the city by this administration has made the city eligible to receive federal funds that were not available before because of the lack of such a plan.

Another aspect of the administration's park and recreation program is the Fairbanks Park beautification, according to Chalos.

"The plan is to make it one of Terre Haute's aesthetic attractions," Chalos said.

That project is under contract now, according to Chalos.

"Under this administration we eliminated the possibility of having liquor licenses for the parks as proposed by the previous administration and, at the same time, enhanced the possibility of beautification in Fairbanks Park, in where the liquor license was proposed," Chalos said.

"Beautification throughout the parks has been a goal of this administration," Chalos pointed out. "It is unbelievable to me that forces in this community want to close all the neighborhood parks like this to concentrate on two or three municipal parks."

"We have the assets and resources, fiscally and in personnel, to not only maintain municipal parks but to operate recreation programs in the various neighborhood parks," he said.

"We have just completed a very successful summer recreation program and are finishing the first phase of the renovation of the neighborhood parks," Chalos said.

Future plans in the city parks, according to Chalos, are for the expansion of the recreation program to even more of the neighborhood parks. Brittlebank Park is to be under construction soon and the administration and Park and Recreation Board are looking for a location for a neighborhood park in the north end of the city, as Chalos said was listed in the master plan.

"I am sorry to hear political persons in this city are in favor of closing these parks," Chalos concluded.

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Bids Look Good For Three New Tennis Courts

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

The go-ahead sign for one project and a delay in another are anticipated to come out of a meeting of the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board next Tuesday called to announce the decision of the board on the bids opened yesterday for two park projects.

The bids on three tennis courts in the new Brittlebank Park were considerably lower than the bid received after the first advertisement for bids and the project is expected to be let next Tuesday with construction to follow shortly after that.

The bids on the construction of a nature center building in the John G. Dobbs Memorial Grove Park were substantially higher than the \$31,000 allotment for the project, with the lowest bid over \$10,000 more than that amount. The project will have to be delayed for a re-advertising of the project after either specifications have been modified to fit the allocated amount or more money has been appropriated.

The Park and Recreation

Board is to announce its decision on the bids at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the board meeting room in City Hall.

Park and Recreation Department Superintendent Patrick Dougherty said he was "very pleased" with the way the tennis court bids came in.

L. G. Heine and Sons were the low bidders on the tennis courts with a bid of \$26,530. Very close to that was the bid of C. H. Garmong and Sons, Inc., a \$26,947. The rest of the bids were: J. A. Sears, Inc., \$29,443.34; Shelton-Hannig, Inc., \$35,771; and Zigler and Sons, \$54,950.

The lowest bid on the tennis courts represents nearly an \$8,000 drop in the only bid received the first time the project was advertised. The Park and Recreation Board felt the first bid, submitted by J. A. Sears, Inc., at \$34,443.34 would use too much of the money available for the park, so the specifications for fencing and subbase were changed and the project was re-advertised. The Sears bid was exactly \$5,000 less on the second bidding.

Continued On Page 3, Col. 3.

Tennis Courts

AUG 20 1975
Continued From Page One.

The construction of the tennis courts is expected to begin soon after the bids are let.

The tennis courts mark the first development of the Brittlebank Park at 20th and Grant streets. Bids on the rest of the installations at the park are expected to be advertised for soon.

Plans are not finalized yet, but at the present, the new neighborhood park is expected to have the three tennis courts, a playground, ball fields and a vita course and jogging track, among other facilities.

The money for the new park was willed to the city by former resident Julius Brittlebank for the Park and Recreation Department.

On the nature center building, the Park and Recreation Board is expected to decide before the meeting next Tuesday whether plans for the building will be modified to meet the available amount or whether more money will be sought for the building to keep the specifications the same.

Whichever decision the board reaches, the bids submitted Tuesday will have to be disallowed and the project advertised again.

Either way, a substantial delay in the project will result.

If the project is kept as it is now and more money is sought, the Park and Recreation Department will have to request more money from the City Council, which will have to go through first reading at one meeting and second reading and vote at another meeting. That process normally takes two months unless either council rules are suspended to do the whole process in one meeting or a special meeting is called. After the money is appropriated by the council, it has to be approved by the State Board of Accounts, also.

To re-advertise for the project, the project must appear twice in the legal notices of the local newspapers for two successive weeks.

The bids received Tuesday on the nature center building were: Progressive Construction and Engineering Company, \$41,237; Newlin-Johnson Development Company, \$45,476; and Major and Sons, Inc., \$47,047.

The City Council only appropriated \$31,000 for the project over a year ago.

The nature center building, to serve as an observation center for nature study, is to be located on the edge of the woods. A smoked bay glass window will be at one end of the building with a feeding area outside to attract wildlife.

Preserved animal and plant specimens common to the area are to be on display inside. A discussion room, laboratory and storage area will be included in the building. The center is to be available for individual or group use.

In the park will be marked trails pointing out various environmental and wildlife features.

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Garmong Receives Bid For Park Tennis Courts

1 AUG 27 1978

Work on three new tennis courts for the city is expected to be started in a week to 10 days, according to the contractor awarded that project Tuesday.

C. H. Garmong and Sons, Inc., was named as the contractor for three new tennis courts to be installed at the new neighborhood park, Brittlebank Park, at 20th and Grant streets.

The Terre Haute Park and recreation Board awarded that bid Tuesday while also disallowing all bids on a nature center building proposed for the John G. Dobbs Memorial Grove Park.

The bids on the nature center building were all higher than the money allocated for the project. The project was taken

under advisement by the board. The board is expected to either request more money to continue with the building as planned or to modify the building to meet the available funds.

Ken Hannum, vice president of C. H. Garmong and Sons, Inc., told The TRIBUNE the work on the project would start as soon as orders for supplies were received. He anticipated this would be in about a week or 10 days from the Tuesday meeting.

Hannum estimated the project would be completed in at least six weeks.

The C. H. Garmong and Sons, Inc., bid was the second lowest bid out of five bids submitted. The company's bid was \$26,947. It was only slightly higher than the \$26,530 bid submit-

ted by L. G. Helne and Sons. The other bids were: J. A. Sears, Inc., \$29,443.34; Shelton-Hannig, Inc., \$35,771; and Zigler and Sons, \$54,950.

Park and Recreation Board member L. Schuman Hunter explained to The TRIBUNE that the project was awarded to Garmong and Sons because of the company's previous work.

"I have worked with Garmong and Sons before and they have always done excellent work," Hunter said. "Since there was such a little difference in the two lowest bids, we awarded the contract to them."

The tennis courts mark the first development in Brittlebank Park, a neighborhood park funded by money willed to the city for the Park and Recreation Department by former resident Julius Brittlebank.

Present plans for the park, not yet finalized, include the three tennis courts, a playground, ball fields and a vita course and jogging track, among other facilities.

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City Requests Federal Funds For Four Parks

SEP 14 1975

Community Affairs File

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

The renovation of Spencer F. Ball Field into a neighborhood park with tennis courts, a basketball court, a baseball field, a softball field, a playground and picnic areas has been proposed by the city, according to Mayor William J. Brighton.

Mayor Brighton said an application for funding for the project has been submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and final word should be received by next spring.

Also, in the same funding application, money was requested for the addition of pavilions in four other neighborhood parks across the city, Brighton reported.

A total of \$125,000 has been requested for the project to be matched with the same amount of city funding, according to Mayor Brighton. A limit of \$125,000 per year is set for each city for funding requests from the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

The matching city funds will be derived from the community development revenue sharing funds available to the city, Mayor Brighton said.

The Spencer Park project has been divided into two phases, with the funding requested this year to pay for the first phase, the mayor said. Additional funds will be requested next year to complete Phase II of the project, he said.

Spencer Park, located between 6th and 8th Avenues and 14th and

15th Streets on the city's northside, is now being used as a ball park with four softball diamonds and two baseball diamonds available. There are one restroom facility and two storage sheds there now.

"The change of this park from the limited use of a ball field to the more varied use of a neighborhood park will allow more citizens to use the facility," Mayor Brighton said. He pointed out the park now is used just by a small group of the citizens and only during the baseball and softball season.

City recreation director Mike Reyher emphasized the baseball program which has been conducted at the Spencer Field will not be discontinued with the change in the park.

"We will have the same type of programming we have had there in the past, but we will have added recreational programming at the site," Reyher said.

The baseball program only used the facility three months out of the year, Reyher pointed out. He said with the new plans for the park, tennis, basketball and picnicking will be available as long as the weather permits.

The baseball program consisted of a supervisor with several instructors who organized league play, and conducted clinics and tournaments during the summer months.

"We are developing it into a park to utilize the space for a longer time each year instead of

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City Requests

Continued From Page 1.

just a baseball area which is only used three months out of the year," Reyher explained.

To be added in the first phase of the renovation are: tennis courts, a basketball court, a softball diamond, a baseball diamond, a playground area, patios, a shelter, a pavilion and landscaping.

The second phase is to include parking lots, a vita-course (a combined exercise and jogging course), additional landscaping and lighting.

The two tennis courts are to be constructed on the northside of the park. They will be lighted to allow night play and will be fenced.

Mayor Brighton recently noted that more tennis courts were needed in Terre Haute due to an

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over

increased interest in the sport over the last year.

Next to the tennis courts will be a new basketball court. That basketball court will be completely lighted and fenced. The court will be the type that can be frozen in the winter to provide ice skating.

The new baseball field will be built on the southwest corner of the park at 6th Avenue and 14th Street.

The softball field is planned for the northeast corner of the park at 8th Avenue and 15th Street.

Both the baseball and softball diamonds will be completely fenced and lighted and will have bleachers.

Concession stands will be constructed behind the backstop of each ball diamond. The concession stands will include public restrooms. The buildings are to be 15 feet by 20 feet.

The playground area of Spencer Park as proposed will be in the southeast corner. To be included in the playground area will be an adventure playground, a tot lot, shuffleboard courts, horseshoe courts and an open area for low-organized activities, such as volleyball.

Immediately adjacent to the playground will be a picnic area.

Several picnic areas will be provided in the park. Two patios, one 300 square feet in the northwest corner and another 1,150 square feet in the southeast corner, are planned. Picnic tables will be provided on the patios.

Also, for picnicking, both a shelter and a pavillion are to be constructed. The shelter will be a covered area with picnic tables and the pavillion will include the covered picnic area with a

fireplace and hearth, restrooms, and a drinking fountain.

A "teen conversation area" built of railroad ties, is to be constructed between the tennis and basketball courts to provide a place for the young people to gather.

The buildings to be constructed in the park, the shelter, pavillion and concession stands, are all to be of the same design.

Landscaping with large shade trees, flowering trees, shrubs and evergreen trees is also a part of the first phase of the park renovation.

Plans for the renovation were completed by the Park and Recreation Department in conjunction with Eco Systems, landscape architects and land planners.

The pavillions to be constructed in the four other neighborhood parks are to be of the same design as the buildings in Spencer, also.

The pavilions are proposed for Herz-Rose, 1515 Locust St., Sheridan, 2825 Buckeye St., Thompson, 1721 Oak St., and Voorhees, 230 W. Voorhees St.

These are four of the five neighborhood parks in which the summer recreation program is conducted.

Collett Park is the other park in which the summer recreation program is conducted and it is already equipped with a pavillion. The pavilions are to measure 16 feet by 24 feet. All facilities in the pavillions are designed to be accessible to the handicapped.

Mayor Brighton said the state division of the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation should make its final decision on the application by November. The project will then have to be ap-

proved by the regional and national levels of the bureau. Final word on the project should be received by next spring, the mayor reported.

Mayor Brighton said construction on both the renovation of Spencer Park and the pavillions would begin as soon as bids can be let after the approval is received.

Neighborhood Park Plans

T SEP 16 1975

Part of Fund Application

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

An application recently submitted by the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department for federal funding to build pavilions in four neighborhood parks is a continuation of the present city administration's effort to develop the neighborhood parks for a greater use by the citizens, according to Mayor William J. Brighton.

Mayor Brighton announced recently the department has submitted an application for \$125,000 in matching funds from the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to be used for pavilions in four neighborhood parks and for the renovation of Spencer F. Ball Field into a neighborhood park.

The matching city money is to be derived from the city's community development revenue sharing funds, according to the mayor.

The four neighborhood parks to receive pavilions are: Herz Rose, 1515 Locust St.; Sheridan, 2825 Buckeye St.; Thompson, 1721 Oak St., and Voorhees, 230 W. Voorhees St.

Those neighborhood parks are four of the five parks in which the summer recreation program of the city Park and Recreation Department has been located for the last two summers.

Collett, the other park in

which the program is conducted, already has a pavilion.

The pavilions will serve as centers for the summer recreation program, Brighton said.

The proposed pavilions are to include restrooms, water fountains and covered picnic areas with fireplaces and hearths. The buildings will be 16 feet by 24 feet.

All the pavilions will be of the same design. The design is to be used also for the pavilion, concession stands and shelter proposed in the renovation of Spencer F. Ball Field.

Mayor Brighton said the building of the pavilions in the neighborhood parks is part of the overall plan to upgrade the parks to provide a greater availability for use of them by the citizens.

As part of that plan, new standard playground equipment has been added in many of the parks, including the four parks slated for the new pavilions.

Also standard equipment has been added at Memorial, 3rd to 6th streets between 7th and 8th avenues, and Graham, 1401 S. 17th St.

Adventure playgrounds have been installed in Collett Park, 7th St. and Maple Ave., and Hyde Center, 13½ to 14th Street and Deming Street.

The new equipment in Graham Park is particularly significant, according to Mayor Brighton. He pointed out Graham Park had been completely closed during the previous administration.

Mayor Brighton said the project for which funding is also requested in the recently submitted application for federal money, the renovation of Spencer F. Ball Field into a neighborhood park, will greatly increase that park's use. He said only a small group of citizens use the park now, and then only during the limited baseball

and softball season.

The park will be changed to include tennis courts, a multi-purpose basketball court which can be frozen into an ice skating rink, softball diamond, baseball diamond, playground area with an adventure playground, tot lot, horseshoe and shuffleboard courts and an open area for low-organized games: patios, a picnic shelter and a pavilion.

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Last Stand Of Prairie Grass May Be Preserved

Community Affairs File
by CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

OCT 5 1975

A "vanishing prairie" in northwestern Vigo County is a "natural" for preservation as a nature area. County Park and Recreation Supt. Keith Ruble hopes it can be set aside for this purpose before time runs out.

The land which can be of educational benefit to present and future generations, is the last remaining stand of Little Bluestem Prairie Grass in Vigo County and one of the few remaining prairie remnants in Indiana.

It is contained on approximately 12 acres adjacent to U.S. 41 on the west side of the highway north of Terre Haute, north of the Jones Tool and Machine Co. plant.

The land is owned by Freitag-Weinhardt, Inc., and would be available should the county park department wish to purchase it, Ruble said recently.

A 40-foot wide strip of this fragile prairie along the west side of the U.S. 41 highway fence belongs to the state as additional right-of-way, and is likely to remain unless the highway is widened again there.

Ruble envisions use of this little prairie by elementary, high school and college students as an "outdoor laboratory." He stresses that the Vigo County home of this Little Bluestem Prairie Grass is very fragile and that the area must be managed carefully to prevent destruction of the vegetation.

He expects that small groups or classes could make arrangements with the Park Department for special conducted tours led by a naturalist, such as himself.

Thus for scientific and historical reasons, there is a sound basis for preserving the area, Ruble believes.

Biologists say that the grass clumps have remained in the same pattern for many decades in this bit of "vanishing

prairie."

An early Vigo County biologist, W. S. Blatchley, who taught at Wiley High School for seven years in the late 1880s and early 1890s, catalogued uncultivated ferns and fern allies and flowering plants in this area, and wrote many scientific articles.

During this work, one of his favorite collecting and study areas was the terrace area near Five Mile Pond, which he described as follows:

"In some places, as near the Five-Mile Pond north of Terre Haute, these terraces rise higher and more abruptly than elsewhere and the soil both on the slope and on the level is very sandy. In such localities certain plants are found which have been recorded elsewhere in the state only from the sand dunes along its northern border."

Several species have been recorded from there in addition to the rare little plant of the sandy areas with no common name.

The area has been described in Lindsey, 1969, "Natural Areas of Indiana," as follows:

"This is a dry prairie, made xeric by the rapid internal drainage through the sand substrate. Directly beneath the clumps of little bluestem the soil is of the black prairie type, whereas between grass clusters the sand is scarcely darkened. This indicates that the grass clumps have remained in the same pattern for decades . . .

Scattered small trees were seen even in this relatively quite open prairie (black oak, wild black cherry, honey locust, with dense black locust masses being excluded from the prairie. Shrub size woody species were black oak, dewberry, smooth sumac, cockspur hawthorn, wild black cherry and grape.

Ruble discussed the possibility of Vigo County's acquiring the 12 acres from Freitag-Weinhardt, Inc. for a nature area during a recent hearing conducted for the Vigo County Commissioners by the Area Plan Department in fulfillment of federal requirement for completion of Community Development Fund Discretionary Fund Applications.

Vigo County is eligible for at least \$33,000 in discretionary funds. The park department is seeking moneys for several rural recreational programs, specifically for development of Holloway's Grove in Fontanet, site of the annual Bean Dinner, and for the recently-leased former Concannon School site in Sugar Creek Township, to be known as the Lee Field Recreation Area.

A specific proposal for the Little Bluestem Prairie has not yet been submitted, nor has a purchase price been set by the owner.

"It's still in the talking — and wishing — stage," Ruble says.

Once the little prairie is obtained, Ruble said he would recommend thinning out some of the black locust trees behind the stand of Little Bluestem, to allow it to spread naturally over a larger area. No buildings or structures are presently contemplated on the site.

The County Park and Recreation Department has operated Hunt's Nature Center in the southern part of Vigo County since 1971. A tiny log cabin built in 1866 serves as the naturalist headquarters and classroom. Many varieties of plant and tree life can be seen here, including scarce and endangered species in this excellent "outdoor museum."

Another Nature Center, at Dobbs Park, east of Terre Haute, is being developed by the City Park and Recreation Department.

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Neighborhood Parks Increasing

OCT 21 1975
By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

The three tennis courts in the new southside neighborhood park are nearly completed, according to Pete Chalos, chairman of the Terre Haute City Council park and recreation committee.

First District Councilman Chalos reported the cement work has been done and the fence and posts have been put up for the new courts at the Julius Brittlebank Park at 20th and Grant streets. The courts will be completed as soon as lines are painted and the nets are put up, he explained.

The development of the new park is being funded by money willed to the city by former resident Julius Brittlebank for the purpose of a neighborhood park in his name.

Councilman Chalos reported the present administration initiated the work on the new neighborhood park even though the money had been willed to the city several years before. He explained the previous administration had filed an ordinance to use the money for beautification in front of the downtown amphitheatre instead of for its designated purpose for a neighborhood park.

The present administration's master plan calls for new neighborhood parks in the Highland and Terre Town areas also. Chalos reported.

Beside the additional tennis courts at the new Brittlebank Park, Chalos said two new courts have been added at Collett Park and more are planned for Spencer, Sheridan and Deming parks.

Chalos, a Democrat candidate for re-election as First District councilman, explained one of the other park and recreation area developments during the present administration.

Chalos said the first action taken nearly four years ago was to form a bi-partisan Park and Recreation board of two Democrats and two Republicans.

"With the development of this board, the hiring of a university-trained recreation director and the formulation of a master plan for the immediate and

long-term needs of this community, we made it possible to apply for Terre Haute's share of federal funds available for the development of our parks," Chalos said. "The prior administration made no effort to enable our city to qualify for these funds."

In an effort to clean up all the parks, Chalos said attention was first given to the neighborhood parks. "Many of these parks were left in a deplorable condition and some even closed as public parks by the previous administration."

He continued, "After cleaning up all the parks, we then found we had the choice between spending \$60,000 to renovate the deplorably crowded and inhumane facility for the bears at Deming Park or spending the money to renovate the play facilities for the children of our city. We feel the welfare of the children was and is of vastly greater concern to us than maintaining two bears in Deming Park so we sent the bears to a zoo and installed new playground equipment in the neighborhood parks."

New equipment has been installed in neighborhood parks throughout the city, including Voorhees, Hyle Center, Graham, Thompson, Herz-Rose, Memorial, Collett and Sheridan.

Explaining plans for Dobbs Park,

Chalos said an education center is to be established there to preserve the natural setting of the area and to provide an educational opportunity for the citizens.

Telling why the change was made from the campgrounds established there by the previous administration, Chalos said, "We felt the trailer court was attracting, beside the good folk of Terre Haute, an increasing number of itinerant farm workers, gypsies, tourists and so forth, which was not the proper use of this park. The will of the Dobbs' family explicitly forbids that sort of commercialization."

Another goal of the current administration has been the beautification of the parks. According to Chalos, "Our beautification of Fairbanks Park on the banks of the Wabash has resulted in Fairbanks Park being selected as the site for the highly successful Banks of the Wabash Festival."

"The previous administration wanted to put a liquor license in Fairbanks Park," he pointed out. "This administration is adamantly opposed to that project."

"It is our policy that the parks in this town are for the people of Terre Haute — for their use and their enjoyment," he concluded. "We are dedicated to this end."

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